

# Birchanger

September 2012



# Magazine

Issue 117

## 2012 VILLAGE FETE

You would be surprised just how much work goes into arranging the Birchanger summer fete!

Planning started almost a year ago and bookings for the marquee, hog roast, entertainment and brass band were made six months ago. The special events and games had to be thought of and decided upon, exhibitors and volunteers for the stalls had to be found and a layout plan was needed for the sports field so that the various plots could be allocated. Extra bar staff in the club had to be employed and special beers purchased for the beer festival. Even though the fete committee is a separate body to the BSSC club committee, Peter Booker happens to be chairman of both and managed to coordinate the two bodies in a well organised way. Amazingly the planning and many hours spent on arrangements by Peter and his two teams with the help of volunteers from club and club stewards all managed to come together on the day and ended with yet another successful Birchanger Fete.



The hoped for sunshine may not have materialised, the numbers might have been smaller but everyone at the fete, and it was very well attended, had a very enjoyable and relaxing afternoon where for once there was no rain.

Earlier visitors were welcomed by the Hadstock Brass Band who entertained with two sessions of relaxing music during the afternoon. The jousting on the bouncy base was a particular favourite with the younger visitors, while somehow the Laser Battle did not attract the same number of participants.

Throwing the Wellie was keenly contested both with the adults and the under 12 participation. It is amazingly difficult to throw a Wellie any distance as lot of us discovered!

It was good to see all the old favourite stalls and of course the hog roast, without which no Birchanger occasion could ever be complete. The return of the Badger Society and Birchanger Wood Trust who showed pictures of all they had achieved in the wood drew a great deal of interest.

There were also some very welcome new faces taking on favourite attractions. Tom and Matt produced a huge variety of cakes to have with a welcome cup of tea, and the younger generation were prominent with their help and hard work. Clare as usual worked hard from dawn to well into the night. Her efforts and those of everyone who played their part and to all the visitors who came to the fete made it all a truly friendly village occasion.

To all concerned a very big thank you for all the hard work and for giving the village a very special "home day out"

Just how much was raised is difficult to estimate, as nearly all the stalls paid a small fee for their pitches and the money made then goes directly to their own organisations.

### Word of thanks

Both the Fete and the BSSC club committees wish to thank all the volunteers and participants that gave up their valuable time and effort in making the 2012 Birchanger fete a fantastic success, this was indeed real team spirit. Roll on next summer!





# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

*Elizabeth Godwin*

## Still Time to have your say on Council tax benefit reforms.

Last month a consultation was launched as the Government reduced the amount that councils will be able to keep from Council Tax. Each council will have to set the support levels for those on low incomes, but with the government keeping 10% of the tax collected, councils cannot afford to be as generous with benefit provision. This is of course all part of the drive to get more people back to work. Those of pension age will still be protected.

### The suggestions for Uttlesford include

Protecting those with a disability and all vulnerable people. from the changes.

All those of working age claiming benefit will have to pay a minimum of 20% of their council tax bill.

Those in work, but claiming benefit will find that their level of earnings will be raised before their benefit payments are affected.

You have up to September 28<sup>th</sup> to submit your views.

There is a new Council Benefits Surgery in the Public Library in Dunmow. It is open on Tuesdays between 1 and 3 pm.

## A Picture of Our District

The picture of Uttlesford as commissioned by a study for the Essex Health and Well Being Board is one some of us may find hard to recognise. According to the board, we drink too much, missed too much school, have the longest travel times to work, furthest to go for key services, and job seekers without cars find it particularly difficult. More of us are older and suffer poor transport as well. Our population is expected to be 103,000 from the current 78,000 in 2035.

This is the downside of living in the Essex District with the most open space, have lower unemployment at 4.6% than the rest of the county and despite skipping school we get better results.

Now we need to do something about it!

## Urgent care set to improve

The Urgent Care Centre at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow is now run by the same care providers as the A and E unit. This is news to me as like most people I was unaware that the service was contracted in the first place.

It is expected that services at the urgent Care Centre will improve. The aim is to treat all minor illnesses and accidents there and thus take the pressure off of the A and E unit. This in turn will reduce the wait at A and E as minor cases will now be treated elsewhere.

The Urgent Care Unit will deal with patients faster. It is situated at the main entrance to the hospital, close to the car park. It is not as yet open overnight.

## Work on Section 106 Projects gets underway!

Birchanger has benefited at last from the money promised years ago on the building of Forest Park. Section 106 money is that which has been set aside by the builders for projects to mitigate the disbenefits of the development to the existing community. Highway, Education and Health Section 106 Agreements are also in place and are dealt with by the appropriate authority.

The money for Birchanger has been granted to Birchanger Wood where new footpaths have already been constructed, the Church Hall, the Church, the Club and the Nursery have projects in varying stages of development, but work has already started to engage architects, acquire the necessary permissions where needed and the results will be apparent in the next few months. Some will be completed in the first half of next year.

## Art on Exhibition at the Willows.

The pub has come up with a new idea and a way to vary the décor at the same time. Local artist Brian Gough had his work on display on the newly redecorated pub walls.

Not only was there an interesting and varied display to see, but the work was on sale as well. Brian's work is very well worth a visit anywhere. It will also be on display and available to buy at the art exhibition at the end of the month.

## Don't Forget, Art Show 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Not just an art show, more a village occasion. The pictures by local artists and refreshments will be available in the hall all day, both days. The paintings are for sale as well as to view, and the cakes are homemade, with plenty of tea and coffee as required.

Move to the church and you will find a special floral display, an organist playing and art work by Birchanger School Children. This is also the home of the photographic competition with three classes, under 12s, 12 to 18's and adult. There is no particular subject, just a photo which you have taken and would like to display. For further details contact Angie Driscoll on 817376. Or bring it to the church between 2 and 5 pm on September 18th

Should you wish to purchase a painting, cash facilities are available by kind arrangement at the club. Cheques with a banker's card are also accepted.

## Junior Football on the Recreation Ground.

Young people requested this and the Parish Council have worked on this for several years. Now thanks to the aid of grants work is about to start on levelling the ground for the new pitch in the Recreation Ground. Temporary fencing will be erected and there will be heavy machinery in use in daylight hours. The rest of the ground will be open, but please take care. The new pitch will be ready later on next year.

## New recycling system takes time to get established.

Some of the new crews are still finding it difficult to get around Birchanger. They seem to miss places which were well served before. On one particularly bad day nearly 100 houses were left out altogether. New borrowed lorries keep breaking down, and some are too big for the route. This will hopefully change when the right specification lorries are finally supplied.

Our collection days are about to change from September 18th and the new lorry fleet has arrived. The bin men will work longer hours but have a four day working week. They will have Mondays off so Bank Holidays will not interfere so much with collection days.

If you are still experiencing difficulties, please call me on 812793.

## Bus Stop Improvements on the B1383.

Essex County Highways propose to put a footpath from the end of Birchanger Lane to a new crossing point for the bus stop for Birchanger on the Stansted road. The crossing will have an island in the middle of the road to make the crossing easier at this point for those wishing to take the bus to Saffron Walden or coming from Bishops Stortford. There are also crossing points proposed for the junction with the Stansted Road with Birchanger Lane. This will not necessarily make it easier for motorists trying to exit Birchanger Lane, but may at least slow traffic down as it enters approaches the junction. Not exactly the solution we had hoped for but better than nothing.

## Coffee Morning in Aid of the Church

10.30 to noon at Moorswood on Tuesday October 9th

Everyone Welcome. Cakes with coffee or to buy,

books, raffle, and many other interesting items on sale.

Join us if you can.

Elizabeth

## School News

The oil fired boiler at the school has been threatened with replacement for at least the last fifteen years. Somehow or other the repairmen always seemed to be able to conjure an additional year out of it, that is, until this May when it finally gave up the ghost for good.

The cost of replacing the boiler grew each year from the £5000 original quote, until it reached costs well over the level which the school was expected to fund, with Essex County Council having to pick up a very heavy bill. This, of course, was many times more than the original quote.

The result is that the school has returned to find a new gas fired boiler which was installed during the summer holidays, with a connection to the gas main from Birchwood which was made far more speedily than the rest of the gas pipe laying in Birchanger. No more worries about oil deliveries and hopefully much cheaper running costs now. Mind you the cost of heating the school with industrial electric heaters will eat into most of the first year's potential savings.

# Getting to the Olympics at last

I had waited a long time for this. The memories of one of my best ever tantrums when I was not allowed by my parents to go with them to the 1948 Olympics still burn. The fact that they were obviously right did not help. The closest I had ever got to the Olympics was in Beijing, when the courage of the athletes and the help and care provided by the Chinese will be a lasting memory. Yes we did get to the Bird's Nest Stadium and the Aqua Cube, but nothing had quite prepared me for London 2012.

The first thing to surprise us was the efficient way the public transport system worked on the day we visited. Trains were actually prompt and clean. Then the site was vast, going on quite literally for miles. Better maps and directions would have helped, but there was an army of cheerful volunteers, who must have been exhausted, who were more than eager to help and direct right on until the last visitors had departed.

The buildings which were temporary showed, but the Aquatics Centre and most of the Stadium will remain, along with the waterways and gardens. The jewel in the crown must be the velodrome, easily seen from the A12.

However nothing had prepared me for the crowds or the actual atmosphere inside the stadium. There was a huge buzz from all nationalities, but the partisan but supportive British crowd dominated the evening. Sadly British Athletes did not exactly feature strongly that night, but when a Briton won a silver medal the noise was deafening. The scarcity of British athletes did not mean that the crowd did not find someone to cheer on and support.

Oscar Pistorius was a huge favourite as were the very successful Brazilian Team.

It was amazing just how much was going on at any one time, with field and track events framing shot put and two javelin classes. The javelins were collected by model mini coopers controlled remotely which returned each javelin to the athlete after every throw using a special holder on the roof. Could think of uses for that around here as well.

With so much to see moments were inevitably missed. Field events were paused for medal ceremonies which came thick and fast. An announcer co-ordinated everything and as this was the paralympics special instructions were required for the audience. These included complete silence at the start of some events as well as at Baton Changes in the relay. He even had the unpleasant task of telling the crowd that Britain had lost second place in the medal table, but the way the Russian athletes were performing made the news sadly unsurprising.

The sheer courage of all the participants was amazing. There were those who braved the "chariots of fire" wheelchair races. This is a far more tactical race than it might appear as getting boxed in on route is nearly always disastrous. Athletes ran with all manner of prosthetic legs. There were many who were without arms as well as the blind runners who ran with their sighted and very talented guides. Brazil swept the board in this event, and it was good to see that the guides also got a medal. They really deserved them as keeping two people on track was no mean feat. The relays were particularly difficult. Finding space in lane was one problem, and the baton handovers could prove disastrous. In one event four teams were disqualified. World records, national records and personal bests tumbled in every event.

Everything happened so quickly. There was so much to see at any one time. There were a lot of victory laps of honour, even if a bronze medal only had been achieved or someone had experienced an unfortunate incident which left them out of the medals. The really big thing about the night that the crowd were celebrating courage and triumph over impossible difficulties as well as athletic success.

The atmosphere was electric. Different nationalities came together to support and to find friends. The Olympics is vital. It gives us all a chance to escape our boundaries and to participate in a world where the culture is to do your best and to realise that endeavour, friendship and participation is a very good way forward.

Elizabeth

## Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who helped out at the fete when my mother was taken ill. You will be pleased to know she recovered and has since attended an Over sixties club afternoon.

I would especially like to thank Pam Lee and her daughter Sheryl, Rosemary Saward and Angie Driscoll for taking over the stall while we went to hospital, clearing up afterwards and looking after my car keys.

I also need to thank Cheryl Sampson for the medical attention she gave Mum and Scott for looking after Millie.

Thank you all Sue Gilbey

## London 2012: A look back and a step forward

This month has seen the end of both the Olympics and Paralympics and after all the tension and scepticism, it was a complete success. Yes, Team GB athletes excelled in their achievements but more than that the support shown was incredible.

I saw this first hand when I went to the Olympic Park to watch Wheelchair Basketball last month. Various nationalities descended on Olympic Park, sporting their nation's colours with outfits and face paints whilst some chose to proudly drape themselves in their home flags.

The most pleasing sight of my visit was to see how well the public had taken to the Paralympics, what was for most, unknown territory. The feel-good factor created by the games was definitely in evidence once again, everyone with a smile on their face posing in front of the different stadiums.

Stadiums have been filled out, witnessing moments of greatness from the Great Britain team. From that 'Super Saturday' (that saw Jess Ennis, Greg Rutherford and Mo Farah secure memorable wins) to Chris Hoy's golds in the Velodrome. The Paralympics then continued Team GB's superiority with David Weir (currently three-time 2012 Paralympic Champion) and Jonnie Peacock (conquering Oscar Pistorius in the 100m) giving us moments to remember.

Reflecting on a superb dual games, I believe it will be hard to top in the near future. Paralympics has been firmly and truly put on the map, and speaking of this well-talked-about legacy it has given disability sport a much needed boost. And as for the Olympics, it managed inspire us just as it said it would!

I hope everyone in Birchanger loved what the 2012 games has brought - a great show spanning across both games bringing with it much enthusiasm, success and national pride.

Henry Teall

## News from the Birchanger Wood Trust

The Birchanger Wood Trust which owns Birchanger Wood has recently completed a new high grade surfaced path in the Wood on the Birchanger side of the A120. Take a walk/run or just go or just go and contemplate in it and enjoy.

The refurbished major winding woodland path and the public footpath in your part of the Birchanger Wood were completed only this August so they do need time to mature somewhat. In addition, the Trust will be placing some seating at the north and South ends of the Wood where we have already sited two large spaces when we have the necessary hard wood available.

Your path is just over 1 Km in length and it actually links up with the paths already reconstructed in the Wood on the Stortford side of the A120 in which the Trust has just one section more to complete and which when completed, will provide some 5.2 Km of wheelchair and buggy-friendly paths suitable for all-year-round use.

Birchanger Wood is an ancient woodland and to conserve our undergrowing bulbs – including wood anemones, and English bluebells we need to keep feet on paths in order to regenerate the natural flora and fauna, so whilst we are helping the residents of Stansted and Birchanger to stay healthy and exercise in our Wood, you are helping the Trust in its conservation, by keeping your feet on our paths and thereby assisting in regeneration of the undergrowth.

footpaths and the bridle path from Birchanger Lane.

OK the health and safety: please remember to stay on these designated paths when using them, and keep your dogs under control. In addition, please kindly ensure that all dog faeces are placed in suitable containers or taken home for disposal – trees and hedges are not places on which to leave these containers.

Birchanger Wood pathways are brilliantly suitable for walkers, runners, families and buggies, not cycles, motorbikes, quad bikes or horses. This is an ancient woodland and the Birchanger Wood Trust want all residents and friends to enjoy our Wood. Go out there, enjoy, exercise, be at ease with nature, photograph, take solace, have fun as family unit and as a local group. Birchanger Wood is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers and our voluntary Warden enjoys teaching children and students of all ages and groups in the ancient art of woodland maintenance. If you want to gain your scout or cub badge; what about a Duke of Edinburgh award, how about art in the Wood sponsored by your school, check out biology or try cross-country running?

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis, Secretary and Trustee, The Birchanger Wood Trust

<http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org>

You can access Birchanger Wood by way of several

# News from Birchanger Social Club

## AGM 2012 (BSSC Annual General Meeting)

The committee would like to give advanced notice to the members for the date of the next annual general meeting (AGM). The meeting will be held in the social club as usual on **Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012**. A full agenda will be posted in the club nearer the date but one very important subject for discussion will be the disposal of the Uttlesford Council grant of £80,000 given under the S106 funding - Forrest Hall Park for repairs and renovations to the club. The committee will present their proposals, drawings and costs for the building renovation and modifications which are based on the results of the December 2011 survey where members were asked to give their suggestions and preferences for the clubs future requirements. The committee would like all interested members to attend this very important meeting in order to make the best decision for the club so please make a note of the date in your calendar and try your best to attend.

## New committee members wanted for 2012

There will be five vacancies available for the following year's Sports and social Club Committee, so anyone interested in offering their time and energy for the benefit of the club are very welcome to apply. Application forms for completion will be posted on a noticeboard within the club premises in due course.

Birchanger Sports and Social Club

October Entertainment

13th- Diva Fever  
(Louise and Winnie)

27th - Tequila live

Follow us at [www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)  
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It is with great pleasure that GWB Horticulture has chosen to advertise in the village post for the second year running and they wish to thank all the readers who have considered GWB for their gardening needs, plus a warm welcome to any who might soon opt to choose us for the first time. Thanks to repeat business and a string of very happy customers we have been able to recruit dedicated, knowledgeable and hard working team members whilst continuing to invest in the top of the range machines and tools.

This year has seen countless new machines grace the storage sheds of GWB to include mowers, hedge cutters and even a petrol powered hydraulic log splitter capable of producing a splitting power of up to 10 tons! However perhaps the most anxiously awaited was the new mini digger! A narrow access mini-digger with a 72cm clearance (a little under 2ft 6) which makes accessing small spaces possible!

Whether it 's a one off garden tidy, regular gardening or grounds maintenance, complete landscaping projects or tree works then don't hesitate to contact Gareth to arrange a free no obligation quote.



# News from St Mary's

A huge thank you to all who donated items for sale at the auction and those who came along to purchase the array of lovely goods for sale. It was another successful evening raising £509 for church funds.

Congratulations to Charlie who was baptised on the 26th August. Congratulations also go to Mr and Mrs Purton who married in July and Mr and Mrs Kadwill who married in August. God bless you all.

Most of you will know of the PCC's plan to install a toilet and kitchenette in the church. The architect's drawings are on display in the church but if you want any further information, please speak to Pam Lee. Permission to undertake this development must be obtained from the Chancellor of the Consistory Court and the necessary papers have already been filed. Funding is already in place so as soon as permission is granted, the work will begin!

Whatever kind of service we have on a Sunday at St. Mary's Church in Birchanger, we will have intercessions . The interceder leads the congregation in prayer for those being ill in our village – naming most of them. But the interceder also prays for our village, our country and whatever is on his or her mind in connection with our Church and Birchanger. Since every month has four to five Sundays we need several interceders to make sure that there is always someone available to lead prayers. Until most recently, we had three interceders. Now, one is moving away. This means we are in urgent need of someone with a strong relationship to Birchanger as well as St. Mary's. No experience is needed and all necessary information and help will be provided. We can promise: Doing the intercessions on a Sunday in Church is most rewarding. Couldn't you do that? Even if in doubt, please give a call to Pam (815938) or Peter (323927)!

## Continuation of a link with the Parish of Birchanger

On Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 a tradition of a link with the Parish dating back over 200 years was continued. Paul Kadwill, grandson of Rene Kadwill (nee Harvey) married Nerine Pennington from the Isle of Man in the Parish church. I have been researching the links to the village and the table below shows the time lines of over 5 generations that took their vows in the lively setting of St. Mary's.



## Birchanger Over Sixties Club

Birchanger over Sixties Club are seeking new members. The club meets in the social area of Birchanger Club on the second and fourth Monday of each month between 2 and 4 pm.

There is a bingo session, a raffle ,tea, coffee for £1 per month. There is a £3 joining fee.

We also go out on excursions and a Holiday once a year.

Any one interested to Join the over sixties club should get in touch with the secretary Bernie King on 01279 655497.

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**Village Diary**  
**September/October**

**September**

22nd 8.00 pm At the Club  
Hit and Run  
23rd 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion  
28th 7.30 At the Club  
Poker Night  
30th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins

**29th/30th**

Flower festival  
Organ recital  
Photographic competition  
School Display

**October**

7th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion  
13th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Diva Fever  
(Louise and Winnie)  
14th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Matins  
21st 11.00 am St Mary's  
Family Service  
24th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Club AGM  
27th 8.00 pm At the Club  
Tequila  
28th 11.00 am St Mary's  
Holy Communion

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